

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



2013–2014 CONSERVATION PRIORITIES



MISSOURI

Department of Conservation Priorities

2013–2014

Mission

To protect and manage the forest, fish, and wildlife resources of the state; to facilitate and provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about these resources.

Vision

The Department shall be a forward looking agency, implementing solid core values ensuring integrity and trust, using adaptive learning and creative thinking, embracing technology and providing superior public service—to be the national leader in forest, fish, and wildlife management proactively advancing our mission through understanding natural resource and social landscapes.



Values and Behaviors of Employees

- Excellent public service is essential—we work to deliver more than is expected.
- All citizens are important—we treat citizens the way we would want to be treated.
- Missourians are partners to achieve conservation success—we communicate openly and look for ways to make it easier to partner.
- Fairness, objectivity, sound science, integrity, and accountability guide actions—we know conservation best, value each other's time, strive to work at the speed of business not the speed of government, and are transparent.
- Employees are the Department's most important asset—we all work to advance conservation by being results driven, working as a team, serving as ambassadors for conservation, and living out the conservation ethic through our actions.

Focus Within All Operational Areas

- Increase communication and education within and outside the agency.
- Boldly advance research and management.
- Increase citizen involvement and partnerships.
- Grow quality staff.





Goal 1 **Healthy forests, fish and wildlife.** Ensure healthy and sustainable forest, fish, and wildlife resources throughout the state.

- **Water quality and quantity.** Encourage and use conservation practices that ensure adequate water quantity and quality for healthy habitats.
- **Biological and social research, monitoring, and planning.** Focus research, monitoring, and planning efforts on Department priorities.
- **Forest, fish, and wildlife management.** Protect and manage forests, fish, and wildlife at sustainable levels considering climatic, habitat, socio-political, and economic factors.
- **Landscape-scale conservation approaches.** Focus efforts to enhance habitats in priority landscapes.
- **Regulation development and enforcement.** Provide resource law enforcement and continuously improve regulations through the use of biological and sociological information.
- **Managing natural communities for biodiversity and resilience.** Conserve and enhance healthy natural communities that support a variety of plants and animals.
- **Invasive species.** Limit the introduction and expansion of invasive species.
- **Disease and pest management.** Monitor and minimize damage from new and existing disease and pest threats to Missouri's forests, fish, and wildlife.
- **Community conservation.** Encourage community conservation efforts and open-space initiatives that provide quality habitats for people, forests, fish, and wildlife.



Goal 2 Manage public lands.

Manage lands held in public trust and associated infrastructure to ensure continued benefit to citizens and to forest, fish, and wildlife resources.

- **Infrastructure management/planning.** Infrastructure on Department lands will be managed to ensure a balance of benefits and costs that meet public-use demands and provide adequate staff support.
- **Habitat management.** Manage Department lands to conserve and enhance healthy natural communities and to provide outdoor recreation opportunities.
- **Increase use of Department areas.** Broaden and increase use of conservation areas to inspire interest and support for forest, fish, and wildlife conservation.
- **Land acquisition with landscape focus.** Increase land acquisition in priority geographies and at the landscape-scale level.

Goal 3 Sound business and workplace practices.

Ensure sound financial accountability and transparency in all areas of operation.

- **Staffing management program.** Enhance recruitment, retention, and development of quality staff.
- **Asset planning.** Develop and implement a comprehensive approach to maintenance and replacement of assets that balances investment with benefits using information, procedures, and processes that are efficient and effective.
- **Information management/planning.** Implement a Department-wide information management and technology approach to define, prioritize, and provide solutions to accomplish Department priorities.
- **Fiscal planning.** Monitor and model long-term revenue to ensure stable funding; develop financial management systems that monitor costs to ensure funds are allocated, tracked, and available; and ensure continued revenue from existing sources and develop additional funding sources for conservation priorities.
- **Streamline business practices.** Improve internal and external business processes to increase efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency using approaches that reduce overhead, paperwork, and staffing commitments.
- **Communication strategy for decision-making processes.** Ensure clear and direct communication with staff, partners, and citizens about how we determine priorities and what risk and benefit factors we consider.





Goal 4 Citizen involvement and education

Provide opportunities for active citizen involvement in services and conservation education in both rural and urban areas.

- **Citizen awareness and understanding of conservation.** Increase citizen awareness, understanding, and trust of the Department's conservation efforts.
- **Natural resource stewardship ethic.** Increase citizen understanding of natural resource stewardship and adoption of a conservation ethic.
- **Citizen support and participation.** Increase active citizen support of conservation initiatives and participation in outdoor activities.

Goal 5 Engage partners.

Engage partners at all levels (individual, community, county, state, federal) to enhance natural resources and effective delivery of conservation service.

- **Partner awareness of resource opportunities and issues.** Increase and enhance relationships with conservation partners to improve their awareness and knowledge of opportunities to take action. This includes expanding efforts with volunteers, industry, media, and elected officials.
- **Partner funding and technical support.** Focus funding and technical assistance to partners to encourage, assist, and empower conservation action that matches Department priorities and priority geographies.
- **Empower partners to implement actions.** Increase efforts that result in partners implementing self-sustaining actions that improve forests, fish, and wildlife and support conservation initiatives.



The Conservation Commission and Director

In 1936, the people of Missouri, through the initiative petition process, voted to amend the Missouri Constitution to establish the Conservation Commission. The four Commissioners, no more than two of whom may belong to the same political party, are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. They serve with no compensation for six-year terms. The commission is responsible for management of the state's forest, fish, and wildlife resources. The commission is also responsible for hiring the director.

Commissioner



Mr. Don C. Bedell
Sikeston
Term: 7/30/2009 to
6/30/2015

Commissioner



Mr. James T. Blair, IV
St. Louis
Term: 7/13/2011 to
6/30/2017

Commissioner



Mr. Don R. Johnson
Festus
Term: 7/18/2007 to
6/30/2013

Commissioner



Mrs. Becky L. Plattner
Grand Pass
Term: 8/7/2007 to
6/30/2013

Director



Mr. Robert L. Ziehmer



Missouri is a great place to enjoy the outdoors because:

- Missourians care about conserving forests, fish, and wildlife.
- We work with you and for you to sustain healthy forests, fish, and wildlife.
- We help people discover nature.
- Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt and fish.
- Conservation pays by enriching our economy and quality of life.



To find out more,
visit mdc.mo.gov.

